

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

MJ!
813 218

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL EUROPE INC.
Attn. Dew, Melvyn John
P.O. Box 105
B-1830 Machelen
BELGIUM

RECEIVED IN MACHELEN

04 MAY 2005

IP LAW

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

04/05/2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

2005M014 / WO

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/EP2005/000946

International filing date
(day/month/year)

28/01/2005

Applicant

EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS INC.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ **With regard to the protest** against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:
- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until **30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, **within 20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
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Authorized officer

Toñi Muñoz-Manneken

PC MASTER UPDATED

09 MAY 2005

DANA HEPS

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220 (continued)

The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new;
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

1. [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
"Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers; claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
2. [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]:
"Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
3. [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
"Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or
"Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]:
"Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

"Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

It must be in the language in which the international application is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 2005M014 / WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/EP2005/000946	International filing date (day/month/year) 28/01/2005	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 22/03/2004
Applicant EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS INC.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 5 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. ☐ With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regard to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

- b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/EP2005/000946

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C10G3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C10G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 03/033441 A (SHUTT JOHN R ; LAUERMANN GERHARD (DE); FRITZ HELMUT (DE); KUNKEL JOSEF) 24 April 2003 (2003-04-24) paragraphs '0102! - '0107!; claims 1,6,10 paragraphs '0115!, '0118! -----	1-18
P,X	US 2004/254416 A1 (RISCH MICHAEL A ET AL) 16 December 2004 (2004-12-16) paragraphs '0035!, '0036! -----	11-18
Y	US 2002/103406 A1 (MATHYS GEORGES ET AL) 1 August 2002 (2002-08-01) paragraphs '0042!, '0045!, '0063!, '0064!; claims 1,9 ----- -/-	1-10

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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Authorized officer

Bertin-van Bommel, S

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/000946

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	BELLER M, ET AL: "Progress in hydroformylation and carbonylation" JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR CATALYSIS. A, CHEMICAL., vol. 104, 1995, pages 17-85, XP002325577 NLELSEVIER, AMSTERDAM. page 32, paragraph 2.1.3.2; example 4	1-10
A	US 5 960 643 A (KUECHLER ET AL) 5 October 1999 (1999-10-05) claims 17,21; example 1	1-10
X	US 2003/187313 A1 (STROHMAIER KARL G ET AL) 2 October 2003 (2003-10-02) paragraph '0094!; claims	1-10
X	US 2003/045761 A1 (CHENG MINQUAN ET AL) 6 March 2003 (2003-03-06) paragraph '0022!; claims 1,10	1-10
A	WO 02/06188 A (EXXONMOBIL CHEM PATENTS INC) 24 January 2002 (2002-01-24) claims 1,4,9,10	1-18

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/000946

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 03033441	A	24-04-2003	DE 10150479 A1	24-04-2003
			US 2003125597 A1	03-07-2003
			BR 0213116 A	21-09-2004
			EP 1436242 A1	14-07-2004
			JP 2005505614 T	24-02-2005
			WO 03033441 A1	24-04-2003
US 2004254416	A1	16-12-2004	WO 2005000997 A1	06-01-2005
US 2002103406	A1	01-08-2002	CA 2433852 A1	08-08-2002
			CN 1487909 A	07-04-2004
			EP 1373171 A1	02-01-2004
			NO 20033412 A	30-09-2003
			WO 02060843 A1	08-08-2002
			US 2003225307 A1	04-12-2003
			BR 0206874 A	20-01-2004
			CA 2433340 A1	08-08-2002
			CA 2434967 A1	08-08-2002
			CN 1483010 A	17-03-2004
			CN 1489564 A	14-04-2004
			EP 1368288 A1	10-12-2003
			EP 1368290 A1	10-12-2003
			JP 2004526698 T	02-09-2004
			MX PA03006914 A	05-05-2004
			MX PA03006915 A	20-05-2004
			NO 20033414 A	19-09-2003
			NO 20033416 A	30-07-2003
			WO 02060844 A1	08-08-2002
			WO 02060842 A1	08-08-2002
			US 2004133053 A1	08-07-2004
			US 2002111523 A1	15-08-2002
			US 2004242948 A1	02-12-2004
US 5960643	A	05-10-1999	US 6212905 B1	10-04-2001
			AT 226185 T	15-11-2002
			CN 1241991 A ,C	19-01-2000
			DE 69716479 D1	21-11-2002
			DE 69716479 T2	26-06-2003
			EP 0960086 A1	01-12-1999
			ES 2186014 T3	01-05-2003
			NO 993227 A	31-08-1999
			WO 9829366 A1	09-07-1998
			AU 5719098 A	31-07-1998
			ZA 9711705 A	03-05-1999
US 2003187313	A1	02-10-2003	AU 2003217776 A1	20-10-2003
			WO 03084660 A2	16-10-2003
			US 2003187314 A1	02-10-2003
			US 2004224839 A1	11-11-2004
US 2003045761	A1	06-03-2003	AU 7179201 A	30-01-2002
			CA 2415659 A1	24-01-2002
			CN 1441756 A	10-09-2003
			EP 1299326 A2	09-04-2003
			NO 20030134 A	24-01-2003
			WO 0206188 A2	24-01-2002
			ZA 200300200 A	21-07-2004

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP2005/000946

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0206188	A	24-01-2002	AU 7179201 A	30-01-2002
			CA 2415659 A1	24-01-2002
			CN 1441756 A	10-09-2003
			EP 1299326 A2	09-04-2003
			NO 20030134 A	24-01-2003
			WO 0206188 A2	24-01-2002
			US 2003045761 A1	06-03-2003
			ZA 200300200 A	21-07-2004

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000946

International filing date (day/month/year)
28.01.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
22.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
C10G3/00

Applicant
EXXONMOBIL CHEMICAL PATENTS INC.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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Bertin-van Bommel, S

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000946

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/EP2005/000946

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	8,10
	No: Claims	1-7,9,11-18
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-18
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-18
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.10)

and /or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

- D1: WO 03/033441 A (SHUTT JOHN R ; LAUERMANN GERHARD (DE); FRITZ HELMUT (DE); KUNKEL JOSEF) 24 April 2003 (2003-04-24)
- D2: US 2002/103406 A1 (MATHYS GEORGES ET AL) 1 August 2002 (2002-08-01)
- D3: BELLER M, ET AL: "Progress in hydroformylation and carbonylation" JOURNAL OF MOLECULAR CATALYSIS. A, CHEMICAL., vol. 104, 1995, pages 17-85, XP002325577 NLELSEVIER, AMSTERDAM.
- D4: US-A-5 960 643 (KUECHLER ET AL) 5 October 1999 (1999-10-05)

Novelty

2. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses a method of making aldehydes comprising contacting an oxygenate with a molecular sieve catalyst to form an olefin composition; separating a propylene containing stream from the olefin composition and using said propylene to manufacture aldehydes (see D1: claim 1; § [0118]).

Although the term hydroformylation is not employed explicitly in D1, it is generally known to the person skilled in the art that in order to obtain aldehydes from propylene, one could contact the propylene with a rhodium hydroformylation catalyst in order to obtain the hydroformylated product, i.e. the aldehydes. This last feature is therefore considered to be implicitly included in D1, which is consequently prejudicial to the novelty of claim 1.

3. The same reasoning applies, mutatis mutandis, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claim 9, which therefore is also considered not new.

4. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 11 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

D1 discloses a propylene composition comprising propylene, water, propane and dimethyl ether (DME), i.e., comprising no ethylene, wherein the amount of DME in the propylene stream, after removal of water and propane, is 0.5-25 wppm.

5. The additional subject-matter of dependent claims 2-7, 12-18 is disclosed in D1 and therefore also not novel (see D1: corresponding passages cited in the search report).

Inventive Step

6. The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1 and 9 do not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

Documents D2 and D3

7.1 The document D2 discloses a method of making a hydroformylated product comprising producing propylene from an oxygenate, separating the propylene, contacting the propylene with an oligomerisation catalyst to form a dimer or oligomer, and contacting the latter with a hydroformylating catalyst to form a hydroformylated product.

The problem to be solved in D2 is the same as the problem of the present application, namely, eliminating the need for extensive pretreatment of the olefin feed to remove contaminants, as is required from olefin feedstocks produced by cracking.

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from the known method of D2 in that it includes the extra step of converting the propylene to an oligomer, before hydroformylation, rather than contacting the propylene directly with the hydroformylation catalyst.

7.2 Document D3, referred to in D2 (see D2: §[0063]) and thereby incorporated therein, discloses however the hydroformylation of propylene, by contacting propylene directly with a rhodium catalyst in order to produce butyraldehyde (see D3: p.32, reaction (4)).

It would therefore be obvious to the person skilled in the art, namely when the same result is to be achieved (e.g. the production of butyraldehyde) to eliminate the oligomerisation

step of D2 and contact the propylene directly with the hydroformylation catalyst, as according to D3, thereby arriving at a method according to claim 1.

8. The same reasoning applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claim 9, which therefore is also considered not inventive.

Document D4

9. D4 discloses a method according to claim 1, comprising converting an oxygenate to ethylene, separating the ethylene and contacting it with a rhodium hydroformylation catalyst.

Claim 1 differs over D4 in that ethylene is produced and converted, instead of propylene. It is however generally known to the person skilled in the art that with the same process of document D4 the production of propylene is an equivalent to the production of ethylene and can be interchanged with that feature where circumstances make it desirable.

10. The same reasoning applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the subject-matter of the corresponding independent claim 9, which therefore is also considered not inventive.

11. Dependent claims 2-8,10,12-18 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, as these features are disclosed in D2, D3 and/or D4 (see the corresponding passages cited in the search report).

Re Item VI

Certain documents cited

Certain published documents

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US 2004/254416 A1	16.12.2004	16.06.2003	16.06.2003

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